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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE NEWS

REGION 4

Comprising States of Louisiana, Arkansas,
Oklahoma and Texas, except High Plains Area.

REGIONAL OFFICE--FORT WORTH, TEXAS

VOL. VI

MARCH - APRIL - MAY

1940

No. 3

DR. LOWDERMILK SPEAKS TO 15,000 IN REGION 4

Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk's interesting picture story of "Soil Erosion and Civilization" was presented to approximately 15,000 persons in public meetings in the Western Gulf Region in March and April.

The audience of the assistant chief of the Soil Conservation Service was increased by the presentation of two radio programs and the publication of numerous interviews and feature stories in newspapers of the four states. Texas State Network broadcast an address which Dr. Lowdermilk presented over KTEM at Temple. A 20-minute discussion before the Victory Bible Class at Abilene, Texas, was broadcast over KRBC there.

Favorable editorial comment appeared in several newspapers. Walter R. Humphries, editor of the Temple, Texas, Daily Telegram wrote, after hearing Dr. Lowdermilk speak:

"The warning of Dr. Lowdermilk in his address at the municipal auditorium last night was no case of whistling in the dark. . . . No better proof could have been presented than was presented in the pictures of the

PUBLICATION OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISCONTINUED

Effective with this issue, the practice of publishing a monthly regional newsletter will be discontinued.

Newsletters will be issued from time to time as news warrants and distribution will be confined to Service personnel. Informational letters issued from time to time by the technical divisions will serve to keep field personnel advised regarding new developments in the several fields heretofore covered by newsletter articles.

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waste lands which now lie where rich and prosperous civilizations once flourished. . . . The jarring thing about the pictures which support these facts is the ever-present reminder that 'it can happen here.' We are but peering into the looking-glass of history and seeing what will happen to our land and our civilization if we don't preserve the soil which supports it."

Audiences in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas were appreciative of the assistant chief's message. He also was received warmly by farm groups, educational institutions, civic clubs and church groups, which arranged several breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in his honor. One of the most enthusiastic audiences was that at the Grambling, La., Negro Normal College near Ruston.

Excerpts from interviews which Dr. Lowdermilk gave:

"Oklahoma and the rest of America is letting blow and wash away what European nations are fighting for. . . . It is a sad commentary on man's stewardship of the earth that the newest nation has in little more than two centuries lost forever a great percent of its native soil, and with it the best natural protection against flood, famine and disease."

"The American frontier today is no longer 'out west.' Today our frontier is underfoot. It is the conservation of our soil resources. . . . After 300 years of exploitation of the natural resources of a new continent, the United States has reached a transition stage between exploitive occupation and sustained conservation of its land resources. During the past six years of a nationwide undertaking in land conservation and erosion control, much has been learned, but much still remains to be learned."

"The conservation of such natural resources as soil is as important to the American people as armaments. The conservation of our natural resources is our internal defense; armaments are our external defense. Both are vital, and so we must have both."

"We can only be provident in the presence of a certain amount of abundance. Americans need now, while there is good land left, to begin a systematic installation of conservation practices which will insure the perpetuation of soil and water resources for this and future generations."

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CHANGE TIME OF WLW BROADCAST

"Fortunes Washed Away," the dramatized radio series now entering its third year over WLW, Cincinnati, changed broadcast time beginning Saturday, May 4. The programs now are heard at 1:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (12:15 p.m., Central Standard Time) instead of the 1:00 p.m. spot formerly occupied by the series.

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TWO NEW DISTRICTS VOTED IN ARKANSAS

Proving the popularity of the soil conservation district program in Arkansas, farmers of two counties that adjoin the Lower East Saline district in Arkansas, last month voted in two new districts with only two dissenting votes in the total of 1,147 cast.

The new districts are:

L'Aigle Creek, covering Bradley County and Lee and Hurricane townships of Cleveland County, a district area of approximately 421,760 acres. The vote: For - 545, Against - 2.

West Saline, covering approximately 385,920 acres, consisting of all of Cleveland County with the exception of the two townships in L'Aigle Creek district. The vote: For - 602, Against - 0.

Lower East Saline District which joins the two new districts on the East is one of the original 10 districts to start operations in Arkansas.

The addition of L'Aigle and West Saline districts increases the number of organized districts in Arkansas to 19.

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DISTRICT PROGRESS IN ARKANSAS LISTED

As of March 31, the 16 operating soil conservation districts in Arkansas had entered into agreements with 4,602 farmers who own or operate 606,581 acres of land. In addition, 154 farm plans covering 20,244 acres had been completed and presented to the farmer for signature. At the close of March, another 168 farm plans involving 24,588 acres were in the process of completion.

Glenn E. Riddell, state coordinator for the Service in Arkansas reported that district supervisors had received 8,481 applications from farmers within the districts requesting assistance in the solution of their land use problems.

On March 31, conservation surveys had been completed on 3,108,135 acres of land in districts.

During the month of March, 9,634 persons attended 206 district educational meetings.

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WOODLANDS--A CASH CROP FOR THE FARM

By James M. Case, Area Forester
Little Rock, Arkansas

It only occupies 15 acres on a 65-acre farm but Mr. U. J. Glasgow who farms near Nashville, Arkansas, regards his woodland in the same light that he views other crops on his farm.

Mr. Glasgow, who has established a complete soil and water conservation system on his farm with the assistance of technicians assigned to the Mine Creek District has developed a woodland management plan which includes selective cutting and protection from fire and grazing.

But Mr. Glasgow's interest in woodland management became apparent even before he began the establishment of a soil conservation program. It was in 1937 that he was offered \$100 for all trees 10-inches, or larger, in diameter in this woodland. This offer Mr. Glasgow rejected. Instead he cut only a few of the very largest trees and sold them for \$67.

Mr. Glasgow now knows that he can increase the rate of growth and improve the form of some of his young trees by periodically removing poorly-formed and defective larger trees that are overtopping or crowding the younger ones. Portions of some of these trees removed can be sold as sawlogs while the poorest trees and the tops and branches of all trees will furnish fire-wood or fence posts.

The growth study made before the management plan was evolved showed that the woodland was growing about 3,000 board feet of sawlogs a year. It was decided that Mr. Glasgow could safely cut this amount of timber each year and still maintain a good stand for future growth.

So Mr. Glasgow has decided to selectively remove this amount of timber at intervals of one to five years and will therefore always have a crop of sawlogs for sale.

But if Mr. Glasgow had decided to clean cut his woods all in one year, as was suggested to him in 1937, his woods would not have again reached the stage of present productivity for another 50 years. Mr. Glasgow knows that his trees that are from 10 to 12 inches in diameter will increase from three to five times in volume and value during the next ten years and if he cut them down all at once he would be destroying a valuable investment.

Mr. Glasgow also takes advantage of another source of profit from his woodland. He earns \$2.00 per thousand board feet extra by cutting the logs himself and hauling them to the roadside where they can be picked up by the buyer's trucks.

Mr. Glasgow this year found much needed cash to finance his son's business school course by cutting five year's growth from the 15-acre woods. This cut brought \$150. Tops and branches of the trees that were cut for saw-logs plus a few "wolf trees" netted \$32 when sold for fuelwood. Fuelwood and posts used on the farm were valued at \$20.

In another five years, Mr. Glasgow can cut another \$150 worth of timber and his woodland will continue to increase in value through the years due to careful management practices.

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REALIZES \$3,280 PROFIT FROM WOODLAND

Including this year's harvest, the 125-acre woodland on the farm of W. J. Patterson, near Harrison, Ark., has returned the operator a profit of \$3,280, or \$1.32 per acre annually during the past twenty years due to protection of the woods from fire and grazing and the employment of proper management practices.

Mr. Patterson, whose farm is on Hogskin Creek, has established a complete soil and water conservation program on his farm with the assistance of technicians from the Crooked Creek District.

Mr. Patterson bought the 125 acres in 1919 for \$525. It supported a good growth of hardwood and cedar. The first year he made a selective cutting Mr. Patterson harvested 20,000 cedar posts which he sold for a profit of \$800 and 2,500 ties worth \$625.

Subsequent harvests were:

1927 - 5,000 cedar posts and 1200 cross ties brought a profit of \$825.

1934 - 5,134 cedar posts and 1200 cross ties netted \$840.

This year's crop of 500 cedar posts and 1200 ties will bring in about \$820.

Selective cutting, protection from fire and other management practices are gradually improving the quality and amount of timber grown in the woods, Mr. Patterson reports.

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FIRE STOPS TREE GROWTH AND CAUSES CASH LOSS

The importance of protecting woodland from fire as a means of insuring timber harvests is strikingly illustrated on the Horace R. Jones farm near Clay, La.

This year sawlogs, some of which were 14-inches in diameter were cut from a woods on the farm that had been protected from fire and grazing. The trees cut were 16 years, or less, old.

Another woodland belonging to Mr. Jones, similar in most respects to the first, with the exception that it had been burned over, did not have any merchantable trees this year in spite of the fact that there were trees in it as old as 30 years.

"Sawyers can take trees from eight inches in diameter and up from this burned woodland," Mr. Jones said, "but still there are no trees to be cut." He explained that the unprofitable woodland had been invaded by fire about 16 times during the last 30 years.

Many trees in the burned over woodland have been damaged or killed by fire and the new growth has been destroyed. In the woodland which has not felt the menace of fire, old and new growth is uniform and timber production is constant.

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DISTRICT PROGRESS IN OKLAHOMA

On March 31, Leo S. Wortman, state coordinator for Oklahoma reported that 2,540 farmers who own or operate 470,441 acres of land in Oklahoma districts had entered into agreements with their respective boards of supervisors. In addition, 63 farm plans covering 9,266 acres had been presented to farmers for signature and 351 farm plans covering 41,802 acres were in the process of completion.

More than 5,856 farmers have applied to their respective district supervisors for assistance in solving their land use problems.

As of March 31 conservation surveys had been completed on 4,794,161 acres in Oklahoma districts.

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35 TEXAS CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO VOTE MAY 25

Proposals to create 35 soil conservation districts covering 34,257,756 acres of Texas agricultural land will be placed before land-owners in referenda set for Saturday, May 25, by the State Soil Conservation Board.

In the first district referenda in Texas, landowners approved 16 proposed soil conservation districts. These districts are as follows:

Western Gulf Region

Harrison County, 558,000 acres; Sulphur-Cypress (Titus, Camp, Morris and Franklin Counties), 738,000 acres; Karnes (Karnes, Bee, Goliad and Live Oak Counties), 1,296,000 acres; Hamilton-Coryel Counties, 1,228,000 acres; Central Colorado (Coleman, Runnels, Taylor and Callahan Counties), 1,168,000 acres; Concho (Concho, Tom Green, McCulloch and Menard Counties), 1,088,000 acres; El Paso-Hudspeth Counties, 1,376,000 acres; Comal-Hays-Guadalupe Counties, 960,000 acres. Wilson County, 524,000 acres; Nacogdoches (Nacogdoches and Rusk Counties), 817,000 acres; Martin-Howard (Martin, Howard, Glasscock and Midland Counties), 1,232,000 acres; Duck Creek (Dickens, Kent, and Stonewall Counties), 1,024,000 acres; Kaufman-Van Zandt (Kaufman, Van Zandt and Dallas Counties), 736,000 acres; Hays-Caldwell-Travis Counties, 848,000 acres; Bowie County, 558,720 acres.

Southern Great Plains Region

Floyd County, 647,000 acres.

The 35 proposed soil conservation districts to be voted on May 25 are Cochran-Yoakum-Terry, 1,676,000 acres in those counties in the Southern Great Plains Region, and these districts in the Western Gulf Region:

North Concho, 1,136,000 acres in parts of Sterling, Glasscock, Howard Coke, Tom Green and Reagan Counties; Upper West Fork, 935,000 acres in parts of Archer, Young, Jack, Clay, Montague and Wise Counties; Dalworth, 1,376,000 acres in Tarrant and Dallas Counties and parts of Johnson and Ellis Counties; Mitchell County, 832,000 acres, all of Mitchell County and parts of Sterling, Nolan and Scurry Counties; Pease-Red River, 850,000 acres, parts of Hardeman, Wilbarger and Wichita Counties; Toyah-Limpia, 1,125,900 acres, parts of Jeff Davis, Pecos and Reeves Counties; Highland, 1,919,900 acres, parts of Presidio and Jeff 909,000 acres, all of Palo Pinto County and parts of Erath, Eastland and Jack Counties; Central Texas, 784,000 acres, parts of Bell, Falls and Milam Counties; McLennan County, 786,000 acres, all of McLennan County and part of Hill County; Ellis-Prairie, 653,000 acres, parts of Ellis, Hill and Johnson Counties; Fannin County, 568,000 acres, parts of Fannin and Grayson Counties.

Pecan Bayou Valley, 612,000 acres, all of Brown County; Rockwall-Collin-Grayson, 960,000 acres, all of Rockwall County and parts of Collin, Grayson and Fannin Counties; Navarro County and parts of Hill, Limestone and Freestone Counties; Shelby-Panola, 1,167,680 acres, all of Panola and Shelby Counties and a part of Rusk County; San Augustine-

Sabine, 775,000 acres, all of San Augustine and Sabine Counties; Davy Crockett-Trinity, 1,097,408 acres, parts of Houston, Walker and Trinity Counties; San Jacinto, 1,772,160 acres, all of Montgomery County and parts of Waller, Grimes, Harris, Liberty, San Jacinto and Walker Counties.

Atascosa County, 1,008,000 acres, all of Atascosa County and parts of Navarro-Hill, 1,090,000 acres, all of Davis Counties; Middle Clear Fork, 848,000 acres, parts of Jones, Shackelford, Callahan, Taylor, and Nolan Counties; Limestone-Falls, 844,000 acres, parts of Limestone, Falls and Hill Counties.

California Creek, 832,000 acres, parts of Jones, Haskell, Throckmorton, Shackelford and Fisher Counties; Dublin-Comanche-Eastland, 1,326,700 acres, all of Comanche County and parts of Erath and Eastland Counties; Palo Pinto, McMullen, Median and Frio Counties; Freestone-Leon, 876,160 acres, parts of Freestone and Leon Counties; North Texas, 604,800 acres, all of Lamar County; Middle Guadalupe Basin, 1,024,000 acres, Gonzales and DeWitt Counties; Sabine River-Cypress Creek, 662,000 acres, all of Upshur and Gregg Counties and a part of Smith County; Trinity-Neches, 972,672 acres, all of Henderson County and parts of Van Zandt and Anderson Counties; Little River-San Gabriel, 770,000 acres, parts of Williamson, Bell and Milam Counties; Taylor, 1,108,000 acres, parts of Travis, Williamson and Milam Counties; Hopkins-Rains-Wood, 1,111,000 acres, all of Hopkins, Rains and Wood Counties; Red River County, 664,960 acres, all of Red River County; Anderson-Houston, 580,416 acres, parts of Anderson and Houston Counties.

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26 PERCENT OF NATION'S DISTRICTS IN REGION 4

The Western Gulf Region on April 1 had 26 percent of the 246 organized soil conservation districts of the United States and 26 percent of the 135,932,392 acres in these organized districts.

Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana had a total of 64 soil conservation districts, covering 36,231,281 acres.

On April 1, 182 soil conservation districts in 27 states had entered into memoranda of understanding with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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THE EFFECTS OF TERRACING AND CONTOUR TILLAGE ON THE YIELDS OF COTTON AND CORN IN THE ELM CREEK PROJECT AREA

For the past four years the Operations and Research Divisions of the Soil Conservation Service have been studying the effects of terracing and contour tillage on the yields of the principal crops grown on the principal soil types found within the Elm Creek Project area. Cotton and corn were selected as the principal crops to be studied because of the large acreage devoted to each, and Austin Clay and Houston Black Clay as the principal soil types because of their predominance in this area.

In order to accurately measure the relative productivity of terraced and unterraced land, the yields from approximately 160 small plots were recorded for four consecutive years (1936-1939). The growing conditions for the crops harvested from these small plots were very similar except for the fact that some were located on terraced fields while an equal number were located on unterraced fields. This method of selection thus eliminated all other factors, except the one being studied, that have a tendency to influence crop yields.

After four years a summary of the records reveal that, on the average, terraced fields of Houston Black Clay yielded 20.8 percent more cotton and 14.2 percent more corn than unterraced fields having this same type of soil. On Austin Clay it was found that this increased yield was even greater as terraced land produced 45.7 percent more cotton and 13.5 percent more corn than similar unterraced fields.

Four Years Results From Crop Yield Measurements On Terraced and Unterraced Fields On Two Major Soil Types In The Elm Creek Watershed, Temple, Texas. (1936-1939)

	COTTON	CORN
	Average yields in pounds	Average yields in bushels
HOUSTON BLACK CLAY		
Terraced	249	31.4
Unterraced	206	27.5
Percent Increase	20.8%	14.2%
Due to Terracing		
AUSTIN CLAY		
Terraced	290	31.0
Unterraced	199	27.3
Percent Increase	45.7%	13.5%
Due to Terracing		

It will be noted from the above that cotton was benefited more than corn by terracing and contour tillage. This is, undoubtedly, due to the fact that cotton, since it does not mature for several months after corn, is able to utilize the extra amount of moisture stored in the ground by terraces and contour tillage at that time of the year when the lack of rainfall often results in decreased yields. The wide spread between the yields

of cotton obtained on terraced and unterraced fields of Austin Clay is partially accounted for by the above and also by the quick response of this shallow and drier type of soil to any increase in its moisture content during the drier summer months.

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TEMPLE CAMP HAS ENVIABLE SAFETY RECORD

Government owned trucks and automobiles operated by drivers from the CCC camp at Temple, Texas, have been involved in only one accident since April 1, 1935 and this accident occurred due to no fault of the government driver, according to G. B. Cooke, regional safety engineer.

From April 1, 1935 to September 22, 1939--a period of four years, five months and 22 days--the vehicles of the Temple camp had been driven a total of 1,133,834 miles without a single lost time accident. From October 1, 1939 to April 1, 1940, these vehicles have been operated an additional 116,025 miles without an accident.

Recently camp drivers and supervisory personnel sent a letter to Mr. Cooke, pledging continued interest in safety. Part of this letter follows:

"We, the undersigned are proud of this record and do solemnly pledge ourselves to continue this record so long as it is possible to do so, to attend safety classes regularly and to use our eyes, ears and brains to prevent accidents at all times." Drivers signing this pledge were:

M. W. Grout, A. D. Aikman, R. T. Searcy, Aaron E. Cox, C. F. Terry, H. C. Bennett, Edward M. Bayer, W. E. Baucom, Olpha Warren, W. D. Peterson, M. V. Stanfield, C. W. Tucker, C. J. Campbell, G. M. Lawson, C. F. Dixon, Victor Walker, Homer Padget and Jack Rozelle.

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NEW RADIO PROGRAM STARTED

On April 9 three Service regions--Regions 2, 3 and 4, launched a cooperative radio program over Station WMC, Memphis, Tenn. The new program heard each Tuesday at 6:30 A.M. is a part of the daily Mid-South Farm and Home Hour presented from WMC.

Region 4's first speaker was Frank Stanley, area conservationist of Little Rock who spoke from the studios of WMC in Memphis on April 16.

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20-YEAR SIEGE OF WATER HAULING IS OVER FOR
TEXAS FARMER WHO HAS BENEFITTED BY THE
WATER FACILITIES PROGRAM

Every day for 20 years, G. D. Daggs, who operates a farm four and a half miles south of Jourdanton, Texas, made at least one eight-mile round trip, and sometimes two trips, to haul water for his livestock.

"If I should charge my labor and team at 40 cents an hour, this hauling would have cost me \$12,982.40 for the past 20 years," Mr. Daggs calculated.

The 20-year water hauling task came to an end this year with the completion of a water facilities installation on the Daggs farm which includes a new well, windmill, water storage reservoirs and watering troughs supplied with water piped from the reservoir.

Recounting the gruelling experience of the past 20 years, Mr. Daggs figured that he made 8,114 trips for water, traveled 47,432 miles with wagon and team and hauled 1,622,800 gallons of water and this daily task consumed 32,456 hours of his time. Yet he found time to make a crop on his farm every year.

Mr. Daggs pointed out that for six of the 20 years he made two trips a day, 8 miles a round trip, to haul water for 40 head of cattle and 2 to 8 head of hogs. During 14 of the 20 years he made one trip a day to haul water for 20 head of cattle and 2 to 8 head of hogs. Once each week Mr. Daggs hauled a barrel of drinking water from Jourdanton, for which he paid five cents a barrel. The mileage traveled, time consumed and water tonnage hauled for drinking purposes is not included in the tabulation dealing with water for livestock.

Mr. Daggs has entered into a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of the water facilities program which made it possible for him to receive a long-term loan and to receive the assistance of the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service in planning and establishing adequate water facilities.

A complete farm plan was developed for the 360-acre Daggs farm which included a coordinated program for soil and water conservation and proper land use, a farm and home management plan and a plan for the installation of needed water facilities.

"It certainly is a relief to be able to turn on a faucet and have all the water I want and need after so many years of hauling water," Mr. Daggs declared. "This convenience will make it possible for me to devote more time to my crops and to my livestock."

Hundreds of farmers in the arid and semi-arid sections of Texas and Oklahoma are forced to haul water for use of the home and livestock due to a lack of proper water facilities. Thousands of others fail to realize

adequate incomes from their land simply because they do not have water holding and saving systems on their land or have not been able financially to develop or improve facilities on their farms. The water facilities program makes it possible for farmers to achieve the best possible use of their land through the development of adequate facilities as well as to install soil and water saving practices on the land.

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REPORTS OF OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES OF GRASS

By Simon E. Wolff, Agronomist

Many species of grass and forbs are being tested at the Service nurseries and at other observational planting sites in the Western Gulf Region to determine germination rates; survival and maintenance of stand under varying conditions, methods of establishing stands, seed production rates and other points regarding characteristics and behavior under varied conditions.

These observations and facilitating studies have been required because little or nothing was known about various native species being considered for use in erosion control work and little was known about some of the introduced species. In some cases it was not even known that they would grow under cultivation.

The following information about *Andropogon scoparius* (Little bluestem) has been obtained from these observational and facilitating studies. Information about other species will be made available to field personnel in forthcoming issues of the newsletter or in informational letters.

Andropogon scoparius (Little bluestem)

1. The optimum planting depth is about one-half inch.
2. Late winter and early spring seedings are best.
3. Early fall seedings are not practical because of winter killing.
4. Tests with various cotton planters showed that row seedings can easily be made with cotton planters, (the pickerywheel type preferred), but special drills are necessary for drilling the ordinary threshed seed.
5. Seeding in rows in 35" rainfall and higher and cultivating as a row crop is a practicable means of establishment, but is a practice slow to be adopted because many of the field men do not consider this grass as one that can or should be cultivated.
6. Seeding with a companion crop, as oats, is a questionable practice in rainfall belts below 35" annually.

7. Broadcast or drilled seedings are impractical in a soil where woody perennials are prevalent because it takes at least three years to establish stands for good erosion control and hay.
8. The use of a non-competitive mulch to assist in establishing stands is advisable where intensive rains, wind and high soil temperatures adversely affect stands.
9. Native strains are best adapted to Texas and Western Gulf Region conditions. Pure strains from Kansas and northward are not adapted to Texas and the southern two-thirds of the Western Gulf Region.
10. Strains with sturdy seedling characteristics have been isolated on the nursery and are now being increased on and off the nursery for field use. These should be in quantity production in 1941.
11. Seed can be collected by hand and threshed for fifteen to twenty cents per pound. This is the best method to obtain pure seed in mixed stands of grasses.
12. Pure or mixed with other similar grasses it can be harvested with a combine and threshed immediately or cut with a binder and threshed with an ordinary grain thresher by a manipulation of thresher parts. The threshed seed will, of course, be mixed.
13. Processing the seed is probably a doubtful practice, because of high cost and the loss of caryopses by breakage.
14. Seedling survival is often dependent on freedom from weed competition.
15. More than one cutting annually (under exceptional growing conditions, two) will tend to hurt the stands and permit the invasion of weeds.
16. Light, late fall and winter grazing of aftermath is not objectionable on well established meadows with high density.
17. It will pay in dollars to rogue the meadow in the spring of undesirable plants to obtain uniform stands of hay. Roguing may be done by hand before weeds go to seed.

3,750 LOUISIANA FARMERS HAVE APPLIED FOR DISTRICT ASSISTANCE

The eight operating Louisiana soil conservation districts had entered into agreements with 1,707 farmers on April 1, according to a report compiled by H. B. Martin, acting state coordinator. These agreements covered 311,626 acres. At the time of the report 121 additional farms, covering 30,369 acres were in the process of planning.

The supervisors of the Louisiana districts had received 3,750 requests for assistance from farmers who control 731,270 acres. Conservation surveys had been completed on 1,053,482 acres.

Twenty-one educational meetings with an attendance of 452 persons were conducted in Louisiana districts during the month of March.

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COMMUNITY COOPERATION IN TERRACE CONSTRUCTION

A splendid example of what can be accomplished when neighbors work together to install conservation practices on their farms is found in the Bethel Negro community north of Franklinton, Louisiana.

Last fall the camp engineer for the Franklinton CCC camp announced a terrace construction demonstration to be held on the J. J. Magee farm. Seventeen farmers showed up for the demonstration. Magee only had two mules of his own but his neighbors furnished five more so that four could be used on the Kelly plow and three on the V-drag.

By pooling manpower and teampower, the farmers were able to build 660 feet of channel type terrace in three hours. The work cost \$4.50 which represented costs figured for 21 mule hours and 12 man hours. This cost was 68 cents per hundred feet of completed terrace built up to final specification and section harrowed.

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CIVIC CLUB TAKES STAND AGAINST BURNING OF WOODS AND PASTURES

The following resolution adopted some time ago by the Guthrie, Oklahoma Lions Club indicates urban interest in rural problems, as they affect entire communities.

Prevention of Wild Fire

The annual burning of forest litter and prairie grass has increased run-off water losses 31 times and soil loss 11½ times, according to studies made at the local Soil and Water Conservation Experiment Station. Wanton burning or destroying of vegetative cover not only increases rainfall run-off, but it also makes thin stands of plants, destroys seed crops, worms and

rodents which aid the soil in absorbing water, and destroys wildlife habitats. In addition, it frequently destroys stored feed for livestock, fences and farm buildings.

Studies have also been conducted showing that partly decomposed vegetative cover is very effective in delaying run-off and controlling floods. Besides the importance of soil and water conservation, vegetative cover contains valuable plant food elements that may be destroyed and "go up in smoke" due to burning. It is estimated that each ton of forest litter or prairie grass will contain from 10 to 15 pounds of nitrogen, which if burned would be a loss of \$1.00 to \$1.50 per ton. It is further estimated that the residue on the wooded and prairie areas will range from $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons to 5 tons per acre. This will mean that burning might destroy residue with a value of between \$1.50 to \$7.50 per acre, if it had to be replaced by purchase of commercial fertilizer.

It has been observed that many forest and prairie fires originate along the highway right-of-way due to careless smokers and malicious vandals. We, the Community Betterment Committee of the Guthrie Lions Club, realizing the importance of vegetative cover in this country, and the fire hazards existing, recommend that the Lions Club go on record urging the state and county highway commission to burn or make fire-guards along all state and county roads adjoining wooded land and prairies in this area. We also urge that the Lion Chief make this appeal direct to the Maintenance Superintendent of the State Highway Commission and the local County Commissioners.

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CONSERVATION AND CURRENT PERIODICALS
Prepared by Virginia Burke
Regional Librarian

The Regional Library is now issuing a weekly list of accessions in the library called LIBRARY LEAFLET. In this manner field personnel may keep up with the new publications and the recent additions to the library. This list is distributed to the area offices.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for April carried a short article by Mr. Edd Roberts titled "Build That Earth Dam." Mr. Roberts is the Oklahoma Extension soil conservationist.

In the April issue of FARM AND RANCH there was an article by Mr. Charles G. Webb of our Regional Information Office, under the title "Worn Out Farm Becomes Productive."

A score card for the farmer called "How Are You Treating Your Land" appeared in the May issue of PROGRESSIVE FARMER and was suggested and prepared by the chiefs of the various technical divisions of the regional office.

Mr. William H. Witt, also of our Regional Information Office, had an article "Re-establishing Buffalo Grass" in the May issue of FARM AND RANCH.

These publications are on file in the Regional Library and may be borrowed by any of the personnel.

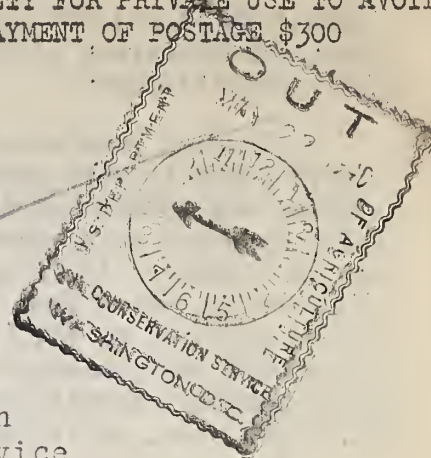
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
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REGION 4

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